

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
COME-00 ICA-11 /042 W
-----119205 140824Z /13

R 131002Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7134
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY FOR HARRISON AND HUTH
WARSAW AND BONN FOR AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, GE
SUBJ: AGATT INTRODUCTORY VISIT TO THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN TRADE AND SCHEDULE FOR AGRICULTURAL PLANNING
AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT GROUP

REF: (A) FASTO 6, (B) FASTO CIRC 8, (C) BERLIN 02444

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN TRADE DIRECTOR SCHMIED RECEIVED
CHIEF, EMBASSY ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SECTION AND
AGATT. LATTER DESCRIBED FUNCTIONS OF AGRICULTURAL
ATTACHE WORK. SCHMIED REQUESTED BRIEFING ON U.S.
AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CAUTIONED THAT DEVELOP-
MENT OF GDR-US RELATIONS IN AGRICULTURE WOULD EVOLVE
SLOWLY. SCHMIED MAPPED OUT ITINERARY AGRICULTURAL
PLANNING AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT GROUP WHICH WILL
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INCLUDE FIRST VISIT TO COLLECTIVE FARM AND MEETINGS
WITH MINISTRY AGRICULTURE, MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE, AND
NAHRUNG OFFICIALS.

2. CHIEF, ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL SECTION PARKER AND
AGATT LOWEN VISITED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE DIRECTOR
DR. FRITZ SCHMIED ON APRIL 11. SCHMIED ASKED WHAT

AGATT INTENDED TO ACCOMPLISH IN GDR. AS IN REF. C, AGATT DESCRIBED WORLDWIDE FUNCTION OF AGRICULTURAL ATTACHES, TOUCHING ON THEMES OF COOPERATION IN TECHNICAL AND ANALYTICAL ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURE, ON DEVELOPING TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND IN ENGENDERING BETTER UNDERSTANDING AMONG AMERICANS OF GDR AGRICULTURE. AGATT OFFERED TO PROVIDE SUBSCRIPTION TO FOREIGN AGRICULTURE MAGAZINE TO BETTER ACQUAINT FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH WORK OF FAS; SCHMIED READILY ACCEPTED OFFER.

3. SCHMIED SAID THAT GDR HAD GREAT RESPECT FOR U.S. AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENTS, AND SEEKS STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN ALL FIELDS, BUT CAUTIONED AGAINST OVEREXPECTATIONS, POINTING OUT THAT KEY AGRICULTURAL TIES OF GDR ARE WITH CEMA AND THAT AGATT "SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH." HE SAID THAT RELATIONS WOULD EVOLVE SLOWLY. SCHMIED EMPHASIZED THAT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL FOREIGN TRADE MATTERS IN AGRICULTURE. HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAD MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR AGRICULTURAL MATTERS WITHIN THE GDR.

4. SCHMIED ALSO REQUESTED HELP OF AGATT IN UNDERSTANDING STRUCTURE OF U.S. AGRICULTURE. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THIS COULD NOT BE DONE DURING A BRIEF MEETING BUT HOPED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATERIALS ON GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURE, COOPERATOR ORGANIZATIONS, FARM GROUPS, UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER COMPONENTS OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENT COULD BE PROVIDED. AGATT PROMISED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS REQUEST. (REQUEST FOR QUID PRO QUO WILL AWAIT FUTURE AND MORE PROPITIOUS MOMENT.)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

5. SCHMIED THEN TURNED TO DISCUSSION MAY 9-13 VISIT OF JOINT FAS/PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL PLANNING AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE. HE STATED DETAILS OF SCHEDULE WOULD BE WORKED OUT WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND PROVIDED GENERAL OUTLINES OF SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

MAY 9

1310 REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND GUENTER FRIEDRICH, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (AND AGATT) WILL MEET DELEGATION UPON ARRIVAL AT SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT IN GDR.

1500 BRIEFING AT EMBASSY, FOLLOWING CHECK-IN
AT UNTER DEN LINDEN HOTEL.
EVENING RECEPTION AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
(EMBASSY CHANGED THIS FROM DAY LATER TO
PERMIT FARM VISIT).

MAY 10

0830 DEPART BERLIN (PROBABLY VIA BUS) TO VISIT
COLLECTIVE FARM SPECIALIZING IN GRAIN

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1130 ARRIVAL AT FARM, FOLLOWED BY LUNCH, TOUR
AND QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION.

1900 ARRIVAL IN BERLIN.

MAY 11

1000 MEETING AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WITH
DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DR. ERWIN
NEU; MANFRED WOLF, DIRECTOR, NAHRUNG
EXPORT IMPORT; GUENTER FRIEDRICH; AND
OTHERS. (BEIL, KIRSTEN AND SCHMIED WILL
ALL BE OUT OF COUNTRY DURING VISIT.)

LUNCH HOSTED BY MR. WOLF OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE.

MAY 12 SCHMIED SAID THERE COULD BE MEETING
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AT NAHRUNG SHOULD NEED FOR SUCH A MEETING
BE APPARENT. AGATT PRESSED TO SCHEDULE
MEETING, BUT SCHMIED DECLINED TO DO SO
IN ADVANCE.

MAY 13

0830 DEPARTURE FROM SCHOENEFELD (EXCEPT
DR. HARRISON).

END UNCLASSIFIED

6. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF ITINERARY, AGATT REQUESTED
THAT PERHAPS ADDITION OF ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION AND/OR
VISIT TO A FEED MILL WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL.
DR. SCHMIED REPLIED THAT THE SCHEDULE WAS ALREADY MADE
AND THAT THIS FLEXIBILITY DID NOT EXIST. AGATT ALSO
ADDED THAT HE HOPED THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE TECHNICAL EXPERTS
WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS WHOLE GAMUT OF ECONOMIC
AND TECHNICAL MATTERS INVOLVING GRAIN, ANIMAL FEEDING
AND ECONOMIC PLANNING, POINTS WHICH MISSION IS QUALIFIED
TO DISCUSS. SCHMIED GAVE ASSURANCES THAT APPROPRIATE
PEOPLE WOULD BE PRESENT.

7. COMMENT: SCHMIED MADE CLEAR THAT SCHEDULE
REPRESENTED LIMIT OF WHAT GDR WOULD GIVE AT THIS
JUNCTURE AND FURTHER REQUESTS FOR MORE EXTENSIVE VISITS
WOULD LIKELY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. NEVERTHELESS,
EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE,
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NAHRUNG AND FIRST-EVER
VISIT OF U.S. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES TO A COLLECTIVE
FARM IN GDR PROMISE TO MAKE VISIT OF TASK FORCE MOST
WORTHWHILE. END COMMENT.

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8. DR. SCHMIED SAID THAT VISIT TO COLLECTIVE FARM AND
DISCUSSIONS AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAD BEEN
ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO MEET SCHEDULE OF DR. HARRISON.
HE IS AWARE THAT CHANGE IN SCHEDULE CURRENTLY CALLS

FOR HARRISON'S DEPARTURE AT 10:00 AM, MAY 11, BUT REQUESTS THAT HARRISON DELAY HIS DEPARTURE SO AS TO ATTEND KEY MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER NEU, WHO IS NOT AVAILABLE EARLIER, AND WHOM SCHMIED CHARACTERIZED AS EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COOPERATION SOUGHT BY THE UNITED STATES IN AGRICULTURE. EMBASSY ALSO HOPEFUL THAT THIS CAN BE DONE IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE TASK FORCE VISIT AND IN VIEW OF RELATIVELY FORTHCOMING RESPONSE OF GDR IN PREPARING ITINERARY. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST. BOLEN

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